

Application Serial No.: 09/773,021
Amendment and Response to January 11, 2006 Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 -9 and 11-20 are in the application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 12, and 18-20 were previously presented; claim 10 is canceled; and claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, and 13-17 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 12, and 18-20 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter is added to the application by way of the present Response. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13, 15, and 18-20 were rejected as being anticipated by Zompa et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,937,991 (hereinafter, Zompa). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims relate to a method (claim 1), a computer-implemented method (claim 12), an apparatus (claims 18 and 19), and a machine-readable medium (claim 20) that includes receiving a first set of travel information including information identifying a traveler, an itinerary of the traveler, and at least one travel service provider scheduled to provide services to the traveler. Thus, it is clear from the claims that the first set of travel information received includes information identifying at least one travel service provider scheduled to provide services to the traveler.

However, despite the Office Action's characterization of Zompa, it is also clear that Zompa does not disclose or suggest, at least, the claimed receiving a first set of travel information including information identifying at least one travel service provider scheduled to provide services to the traveler. In particular, Zompa discloses a travel center sending a Travel Notification Message to "specialized travel service providers" associated with a number of computers 18a – 18n. The Travel Notification Message identifies the traveler, the dates or time period of travel, and the intended destination or destinations. (See Zompa, col., 4, ln. 55 – 61) However, not included in the information

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provided in the Travel Notification Message is the claimed information identifying the travel service providers scheduled to provide services to the traveler.

The Zompa disclosed Travel Notification Message, including traveler name, travel dates and destinations, is provided to "specialized travel service providers". The specialized travel service providers are disclosed as being specialized functions of an organization that can provide useful services in preparing an employee for international travel. (See Zompa, col. 2, ln. 24-27 and 57 – 60) Therefore, it is clear that the "specialized service providers" disclosed in Zompa are not the same as or suggestive of the claimed at least one travel service provider that is scheduled to provide services (e.g., airline service, hotel accommodations, car rental, etc.) to the traveler.

Furthermore, while it is clear that the cited and relied upon Travel Notification Message does not include information identifying the travel service providers scheduled to provide services to the traveler (i.e., no disclosure), there also appears to be no reason (i.e., no suggestion) to provide such information in the Travel Notification Message. That is, no information identifying the travel service providers scheduled to provide services to the traveler is provided in the Travel Notification Message and there is no disclosed need or suggestion to provide such information in the Travel Notification Message or otherwise. For example, the questionnaire or survey that may be provided to a traveler after the traveler has returned from his/her travels is provided by the "specialized service providers" to determine how they, the "specialized service providers", have performed. (See Zompa, col. 5, ln. 43 – 49) Accordingly, there is no need to identify the "specialized service providers" in cited and relied upon Travel Notification Message.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 12, and 18-20 are not anticipated by the cited and relied upon Zompa under 35 USC 102(e). It is respectfully submitted that the cited and relied upon Zompa does not disclose or suggest, at least, the claimed receiving a first set of travel information including information identifying at least one travel service provider scheduled to provide services to the traveler. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 3, 5-7, 11, 13, and 15 are also patentable

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over the cited and relied upon Weiner for at least the same reasons stated regarding claims 1, 12, 18-20.

Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 USC 102(e) are requested, as is the allowance of same.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Zompa as applied against claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 USC 103(a). This rejection is traversed.

Inasmuch as Applicant has clearly shown that Zompa does not disclose that for which it was cited and relied upon for disclosing with regard to claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 USC 102(e), Applicant respectfully submits that Zompa also fails to render claims 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, and 17 obvious over Zompa as applied against claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 USC 103(a).

Accordingly, the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 8, 9, 14, 16, and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) are requested, as is the allowance of same.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (650) 694-5339.

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